



Lovely Strange Dark

CHIYOKO CHOCOLAT

BY KUJIRA

CHAPTER 3

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R E C I P E 3





MY
WIFE TOOK
THE KID AND
LEFT.



PROBABLY
JUST WANTS
ATTENTION.
IT'S
HAPPENED
BEFORE.



IS YOUR
KID OKAY?
IF THEY'VE
BEEN SICK
FOR A WHILE



WHA...?



THE KID'S
BEEN SICK FOR
A WHILE. SINCE
SHE WORKS
TOO, SHE WENT
BACK HOME.



WHA.

LET'S
FORGET
ABOUT
MY LIFE.

NOW









BUT THE
MALLS ARE
ALREADY
CLOSED.



AND I'D
BE UNCOM-
FORTABLE
GOING INTO
A CAFE...



I guess
it's about
time...



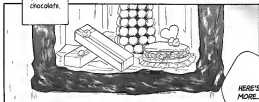
I WANT TO
GET PROPERLY
DRESSED,



...OH.



I GUESS
I CAN GET
CHANGED
AT THE
TRAIN
STATION.





IF YOU WANT
TO COME IN,
PLEASE DO.

YOU TOO,
CHUYOKO.

C'MON!

YOU'RE
CAUSING
A SCENE IN
FRONT OF MY
SHOP. IT'LL
AFFECT MY
BUSINESS.

EXCUSE
ME...

SORRY,
WE'RE NOT
TRYING
TO...

HEY!





WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

...SO.

YOU'RE ON AN
ERRAND
FOR YOUR
MUMMY,
HUH.

AH!

NOT
SURE?

WELL,
I'M NOT
REALLY
SURE.

IT'S FOR
MUMMY.

SO WE'RE
GOING TO
BUY MUMMY'S
FAVOURITE
CHOCOLATE AND
GET HER BACK.

MUMMY
LEFT HOME,

UGH
...

THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST COME
HERE WITH
MAKOTO?



I'M
SORRY.

OH, THAT'S
WHY YOU'VE
BEEN COMING
AROUND MY
SHOP SO
OFTEN.



MAYBE SHE
WENT BACK
TO HER
PARENTS'
PLACE?



BUT
IT'S HARD
TO BRING
MYSELF TO
GO THERE.

...I THINK
SHE DID.



THAT'S
THE
PROBLEM!

YOU'RE
STILL
STUDYING
TO BE A
LAWYER?



...SHE WROTE
ME A LETTER
AND LEFT A
FEW DAYS
AGO.

APPARENTLY
SHE'S BEEN
BUYING CHOCOLATE
FROM HERE, SO I
WAS HOPING TO
CROSS PATHS.



I WAS
GOING
TO GIVE
UP ON THAT
AND START
WORKING...

I TOLD
HER



IN MY
CASE, MY
FATHER
LEFT.



WHY DO
WOMEN
LEAVE SO
EASILY?



HAND-
MADE
CHOCOLATES.



WHAT?
I THOUGHT
HE CAME BACK?
HE'S RUNNING
THIS SHOP,
RIGHT?



LIKE I
KNOW.



WE'RE
HAVING A
CLASS ON
MAKING
CHOCOLATES
TOMORROW.

WHY DON'T
YOU COME
JOIN US?
YOU TOO,
CHIYOKO!

I
WILL
NOT!

NO
THANKS!



WHY DON'T
YOU MAKE
HER SOME?



NEXT
WEEK IS
VALENTINE'S.

HUH...?



I WANT TO MAKE
HEART-SHAPED
CHOCOLATES.



WHY ARE
YOU
TALKING?



THE HEART
SHAPE HAS
YOUR LOVE
FOR HER
POURED
INTO IT.

IT'S NOT
EMBARRASS-
ING AT ALL.

HEART-
SHAPE,
HUH.
THAT'S
EMBARR-
ASSING.



GARNISH WITH
LEMON ZEST
HERE AND
THERE, AND
IT WILL SPARK
HER MEMORIES.



WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
THAT?



ISN'T THAT
LAYING IT
ON THICK...?



IT'S A DAY
WHERE YOU CAN
PROFESS YOUR
LOVE, AND IT
HAPPENS JUST
ONCE A YEAR.



...YEAH



she smiled
and said,
'that's a
good idea'.

when I told
her I quit my
job to become
a lawyer.



ALL
RIGHT!

LET'S
MAKE A
LOT!



She said to
leave the
finances up
to her.



But after two
years I saw her
smile facing



she was
also
sighing
a lot.

and



THE LETTER
SHE LEFT ON
THE TABLE SAID,
"PLEASE GIVE ME
SOME TIME".

I WONDER HOW
MUCH OF HER
TIME I WASTED.



THEN SHE LEFT



I can't give her back that time.

but if I can repay her

with something else, then—

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO TRY,
MADAM?

OH, CAN IT
FOR MY
HUSBAND...

Did
Mum



HELLO.

WELCOME.

OH MY,
YOU'RE
DOING
HANDMADE
CHOCOLATE?!
IT LOOKS
FUN!



want to
revive
this
shop

you do it
like that...

let's
go!

so she could
see it full of
life again
before she
died?

if that's
true,

then
I can't
do it.



in her

last
moment.

I put space
between us.



The only
thing

that I can
do is—

CHIYOKO!





I HEARD
THAT YOU
LEFT, SO...



I WAS
SURPRISED
TO GET A
CALL FROM
YOU

WHAT
HAPPENED?



OH...



OF COURSE
YOU WOULD
GET MAD—

THAT'S
NOT IT!

...I'M NOT
ANGRY.



MEN ARE
SO FICKLE!
WHAT WAS THE
POINT OF YOU
SUPPORTING
THE FAMILY
FOR SO
LONG?

KEN SAID
HE'S GIVING UP
ON BECOMING
A LAWYER.



I'll start working.

SO I THINK HE TOLD ME HE'D "GIVE UP" JUST BECAUSE HE SAW I WAS TIRED.

BUT HE'S A GENTLE SOUL.



IF HE TRIED HIS BEST AND DECIDED TO GIVE UP, THAT WOULD BE FINE.



SHHHH

THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE HE'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME...



BEFORE YOU WIND UP REGRETTING NOT TELLING HIM.

HUH?

YOU SHOULD TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL.





YOU
DON'T WANT
TO HAVE...
THAT KIND
OF REGRET,
RIGHT?

Is that
it?



I DIDN'T

TAKE MY
MOTHER'S
HAND WHEN
SHE WAS
ABOUT TO
DIE.



WELCOME!

Mum,

now I
realize that
I regret it...





PL-

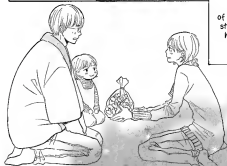
CHOC-
LATE...

...ONE...

The warm
chocolate

has slowly
melted just
a bit

PLEASE



of my cold,
stubborn
heart.